

8 lakh girl students to get stipends: Khaleda

United efforts needed for spreading education

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday called for united efforts for spreading education to transform the huge population into human resources, alleviate poverty and make the country self-reliant soon, reports BSS.

"Let us all work unitedly for spreading education. Let us adopt education as a means for the development of human resources and alleviation of poverty," Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating a two-day national workshop on the role of secondary, technical and higher education in human resources development and poverty alleviation in Dhaka on Saturday morning at the International Conference Centre.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sirar presided. State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, State Minister for Education Younus

Khan, Education Secretary Irshadul Huq and Additional Education Secretary Begum Khodeza Azam also spoke.

Begum Zia listed the measures undertaken by her government to improve the quality of education, reduce the wastages and ensure people's participation in the field of education and said "We have been able to reverse the trend in the past three years while the various programmes adopted for the development of education have been yielding positive results."

Describing the people as the

driving force of development, the Prime Minister said, development of the people or in other words human resources helps socio-economic development of a country and it brings down the magnitude of poverty to transform the huge population into resources. To make poverty-alleviation programmes fruitful, there is no alternative to education, she added.

The objective of education, the Prime Minister said, is to keep life moving, make the mind inquisitive and clean up the heart. It influences one's at-

titude to live a decent life and adjust life with social, political and cultural changes, he said.

Begum Zia said, education helps us to guide our mind and thinking in nation building activities and that is why her government have made primary education compulsory and universal to achieve education for all by the year 2000.

She said her government introduced various measures for the development of secondary, technical and higher education aimed at the improvement of the quality of education, making education purposeful and using it as a tool to eradicate poverty and develop the economy.

Begum Zia emphasised the need for involving women, who constitute half of the population, in the secondary, technical and higher education and said it will be very difficult to bring changes in the social and

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Quality of education

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economic fields unless the participation of women in the secondary, technical and higher education can be enhanced.

The Prime Minister said, that was why by providing stipend to female students of secondary stage throughout the country, the government has taken steps to ignite a social revolution within a shortest possible time.

This year, she declared, eight lakh female students of secondary schools and madrashas will receive stipends and hoped that the increase in the number of female students at the secondary level will help positively influence the next technical and higher education.

In an education system, she said, students, teachers and curricula are equally important and the goal of education should be such that touches every sphere of life and education should be such that will embrace all of them and bring dynamism in thoughts and actions.